

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY  
(SUPPLEMENTARY SHEET)

International file number  
PCT/DE2004/001618

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Re Point V.

Reasoned statement with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

- 1 Reference is made to the following document  
D1: US-A-5 014 810 (HENNE MICHAEL ET AL) May 14, 1991  
(1991-05-14)
- 2 Document D1 is considered the most proximate related art with respect to the object of Claim 1. It discloses, in col. 1, line 52 through col. 3, line 41 and in the figures, a method for activating personal protection means as a function of at least one signal derived from an acceleration sensor.

The object of independent Claim 1 therefore differs from the known method in that a forward displacement is used as the at least one signal, which is compared to at least one threshold value surface, which is set as a function of a velocity decrease and a deceleration, and the personal protection means are activated as a function of the comparison.

The object of Claim 1 is therefore novel (Article 33 (2) PCT). Consequently the object of Claim 10, the use of a control unit in a method as recited in Claim 1, is also novel (Art. 33(2) PCT).

2.1 The object to be achieved using the present invention can therefore be seen in a lower sensitivity of the method.

The approach for achieving the object proposed in Claim 1 of the present application includes an inventive step for the following reasons (Article 33(3) PCT) :

Although setting a threshold, which is variable as a function of parameters characterizing the crash sequence, for an integrated acceleration value is known from document D1, making the threshold value decision via comparison of the dual integration of the acceleration value (forward displacement) with a threshold value surface formed from velocity decrease and deceleration, thus making the deployment decision time-independent, is not obvious from the related art.

2.2 Claims 2 through 9 are dependent on Claim 1 and therefore also meet the requirements of PCT regarding novelty (Article 33(2) PCT) and inventive step (Article 33(3) PCT) .